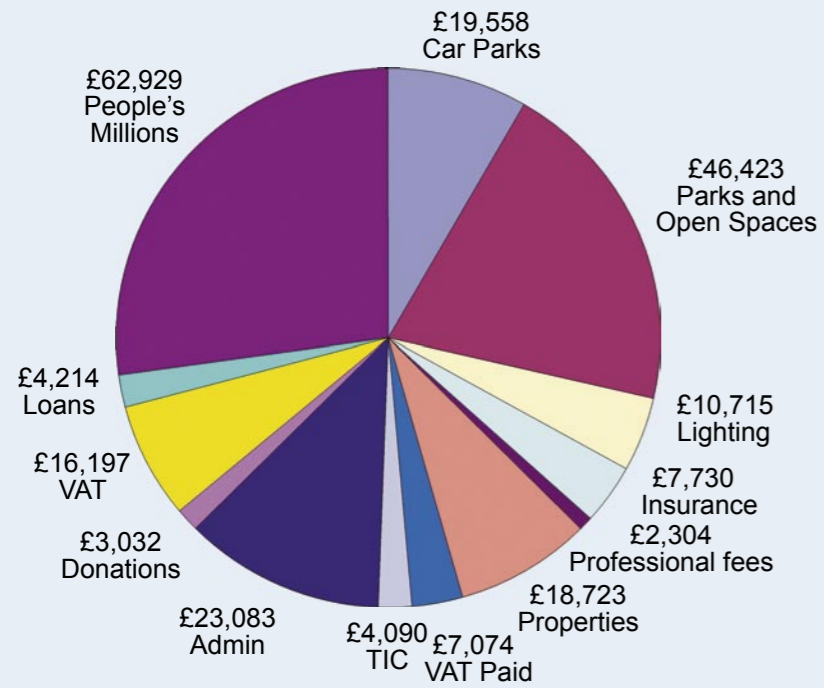
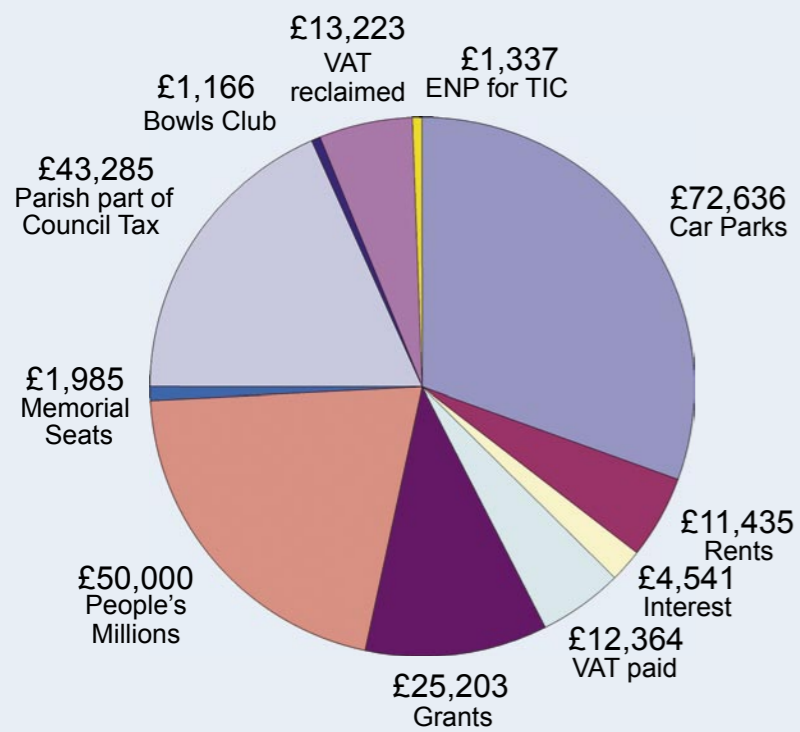


Income & Expenses

Where the money goes...



...and where it comes from



Nicky Tossell 883784



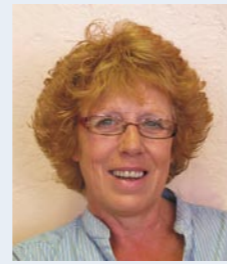
Tracey Seldon 882268



Julia Clark 883611



Steve Seldon 882268



Yvette Gubb 882364



Jill Sidebottom 882378



Eric Hughes 883704



Peter Spencer 882634



Elaine Maidment 883829



Sue Sussex 882916



John Martin 889005

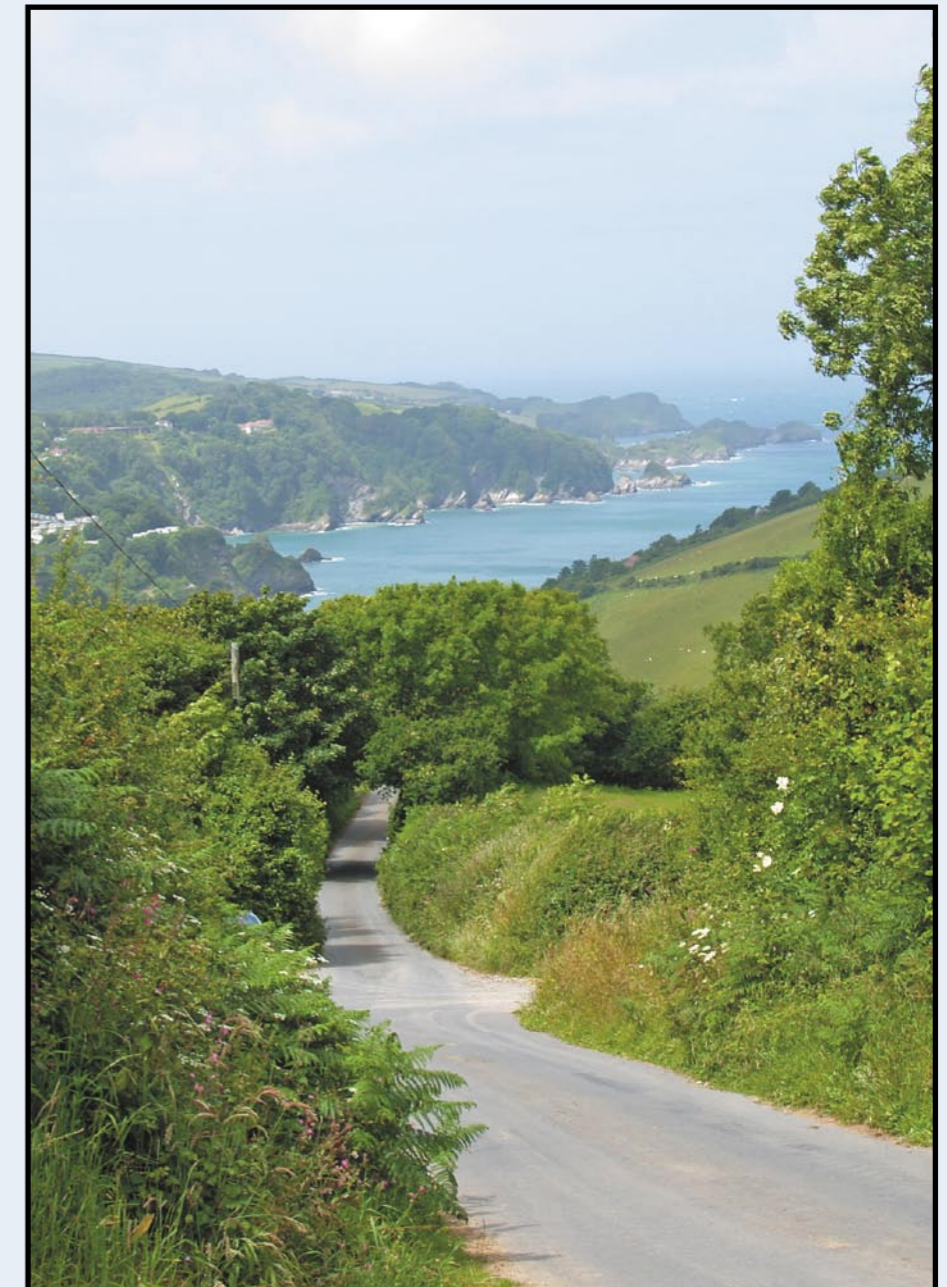


Ralph Sutton 882657

Parish Clerk – Michelle Beaumont
 Village Hall, High Street, Combe Martin, EX34 0HR
 01271 883403 e-mail: cmpc@northdevon.gov.uk

Combe Martin Parish Council

Annual Report 2007 - 2008



Chairman's Report

The Parish Council year

Dear Shammickites

After being Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for two years, when the opportunity came to become Chairman, I thought that this would be quite a challenge. And I was right.

This year has been an eventful one, full of a combination of high and low points.

It started with a low. The lack of people coming forward to stand for election in May, 2007, was really disappointing and, whilst no-one minded not having to trudge round the village delivering election addresses, it was very sad that, for the first time in living memory, there was no parish council election in Combe Martin. That said, we ended up with a full twelve councillors and were happy to welcome the new faces onto the Parish Council.

The forced closure of the steps from Marine Drive across Greenhills has also been a sad decision to have to make. There has also been no option for Council but to close the area around the Alcoves at the Parade, having read the Structural Engineer's report on the area.



On a more positive note, CCTV in Kiln Car Park has resulted in a considerable reduction in anti-social behaviour in the car park. Last summer, Council successfully obtained a Quality Coast Award for Combe Martin Beach, one of only 73 in the entire country, an indication of its commitment to support tourism in Combe Martin.

Some notable anniversaries occurred this year. In September, the Twinning with Cormelles le Royal celebrated its 30th

anniversary and a reception was held at the Pack O' Cards. In March the Shammickite produced its 25th anniversary edition, I used the Chairman's fund to provide refreshments at a gathering to thank all those people who had contributed towards the production of our village newsletter over the years.

Parish councillors work hard during the year for Combe Martin and I hope that villagers will join with us to work towards the same aim.

N. Tossell

Nicky Tossell

Chairman 2007-2008

Many people thought that nothing was happening about the People's Millions money for some time during the summer, but in fact we were busy doing things like



getting the technical specification written for the CCTV, to make sure it would do what we wanted it to do. We also had to iron out problems such as 'does a parish council need planning permission to install CCTV?' (The answer, after much discussion and book studying by the planners, was no.)

In the autumn, things started to happen. Poles appeared in Kiln Car Park, soon followed by new

street lights. The decorative lights around the Seaside were all replaced and in November, CCTV cameras were put in place in the car park. On a wet and windy day, a lorry and trailer appeared from Scotland carrying the new shelter, matching seats and a lot

of railings. It was lovely to receive the very positive comments from so many people who saw all this street furniture being installed.



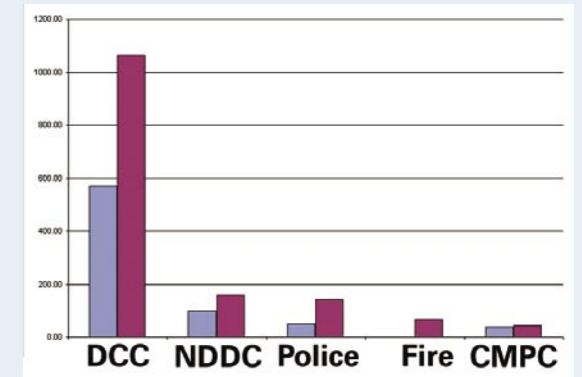
Part of the People's Millions project had been a survey of the Parade area, and sadly, the result of the survey was worse than we had hoped. In fact the survey was such that, having read the report, there was little option but to close off the area above and

in front of the alcoves, in case anything fell from the structure. We are currently looking at the different options of how to deal with the problem, the first and foremost being how to raise enough money to sort the area out, without having to ask villagers to pay a lot



more on future year's council tax.

Rising bills are a major worry to many people at the moment, and we thought you might be interested in a comparison of how your council tax has increased in the last ten



years. The graph here shows the increase levied by Devon County Council, North Devon District Council, the Police, the Fire Service and the Parish Council. As you will see, our increases have been by far the least!



The new seat, which we installed near the junction of Castle Street and Rows Lane, was followed this year by three seats at the entrance to Spurway Gardens, which we hope will be handy for anyone walking the length of our rather long main road.

We try hard to keep Combe Martin in good condition, and sometimes succeed better than at others. We have worked hard on Blackmore

Ham Gardens, the War Memorial and Adams Hay. We are still looking for a project to enhance Head Town and would welcome any well-thought out ideas!

Large quantities of rubbish washing up onto the Beach suddenly has been a real headache at times this year, and we would be really grateful to hear from anyone who would be willing to give an hour or two of their time to help when such things occur. If you would be willing to help, please ring the office on 883403.

